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multiple-switch device; and  
placing data in an orientation field and a multiple-switch  
field in the data packet.

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16. (Twice Amended) A data structure generated by a computer  
input device for transmission to a computer, comprising:

an orientation field containing orientation data indicative  
of a pitch and roll physical orientation of the  
computer input device; and

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a switch field containing switch information indicative of a  
multiple-switch device located on the computer input  
device and having at least two different degrees of  
motional freedom wherein movement of the multiple-  
switch device in the different degrees of motional  
freedom causes actuation of different switches in the  
multiple-switch device.

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20. (Amended) A computer input device, comprising:

a first housing portion including at least one user actuatable  
input device;

a first extending handle, coupled to and extending away  
from, the first housing portion;

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a second extending handle, coupled to and extending from the  
first housing portion;

an orientation sensor coupled to the first housing portion  
and sensing a physical orientation of the first housing  
portion and providing an orientation signal indicative  
thereof;

a controller coupled to the orientation sensor and  
configured to receive the orientation signal and place  
data in an orientation field, based on the orientation  
signal, in a data packet;

a multiple-switch device having at least two different

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degrees of motional freedom and actuatable by an operator such that movement of the multiple switch device in the different degrees of motional freedom causes actuation of different switches in the multiple-switch device, the controller being configured to receive switch information indicative of a configuration of the multiple-switch device and to place switch data in a multiple-switch field in the data packet based on the switch information.

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22. (Amended) The computer input device of claim 20 and further comprising:

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a mode selector, actuatable by an operator, the controller being configured to receive mode information indicative of a selected mode of a plurality of selectable modes of operation and to place the data in the orientation field and the multiple-switch field in the data packet based on the selected mode.

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23. (Twice Amended) A method of controlling a visual display on a computer display device based on an input from a computer input device, the method comprising:

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receiving orientation information indicative of a physical orientation of the computer input device;

receiving switch information indicative of a configuration of a multiple-switch device located on the computer input device and having at least two different degrees of motional freedom wherein movement of the multiple-switch device in the different degrees of motional freedom causes actuation of different switches in the multiple-switch device;

receiving mode information indicative of a selected mode of operation; and

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controlling the display device such that an object being displayed on the visual display device assumes a visual orientation corresponding to one of, the physical orientation of the computer input device as indicated by the orientation information and the configuration of the multiple-switch device as indicated by the switch information, based on the selected mode.

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